A1

b)2 one assumes that said synapse does not have a significant influence on the curve of the risk function,

b)3 one interrupts said synapse,

b4) one compares the reaction of the neural network changed in accordance with step b3) with the reaction of the unchanged neural network, and

b5) if the variation of the reaction does not exceed a predetermined level, one decided to keep the change made in step b3).

A2

6. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the value of a likelihood function is calculated for the neural network to represent the reaction of the neural network.

7. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the structure variants of the neural network are compared using a significance test.

A3

10. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that, to compare two structure variants of the neural network, the ratio of the values of the likelihood functions for said two structure variants is calculated.

11. (Amended) A method for training a neural network in accordance with the preamble of claim 1 and if desired with the characterizing parts of claim 1, characterized in that the training of the neural network comprises an optimization procedure in which the strengths of the individual synapses, that is to say the strengths of the connections between the neurons, are optimized, and in that the simplex method which is known per se is used for said optimization.